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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Commodities
Intergovernmental Group of Experts
on Iron Ore
Fifth session
Geneva, 21 October 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of iron ore statistics
4. Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore
5. Bibliography of relevant studies on iron ore
6. Preparations for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore to the Committee on Commodities.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with normal practice, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. It may be noted that the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore was chaired by a representative of an iron ore consuming country; the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur at that session was a representative of an iron ore producing country.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

At its fourth session, the Intergovernmental Group agreed on three substantive items for inclusion in the provisional agenda for its fifth session (TD/B/C.1/313 - TD/B/C.1/IRON ORE/5, para. 23). These items appear as items 3, 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda in section I above. Suggestions for the organization of work are made in section III below.

Item 3: Review of iron ore statistics

To facilitate the annual review of world iron ore statistics, the Intergovernmental Group will have before it a document entitled "Iron ore statistics 1981-1990" (TD/B/C.1/IRON ORE/7). This publication was prepared mainly on the basis of replies received from Governments to the secretariat's annual questionnaire on iron ore sent to all States members of UNCTAD in December 1990. In connexion with this item, it is recalled that the Chairman of the fourth session concluded that the Group should take up again at its fifth session the Canadian proposal contained in document TD/B/C.1/IRON ORE/L.1.

Item 4: Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore

To assist the Intergovernmental Group in examining the trends and developments with regard to production, consumption and trade, and other key factors influencing the iron ore market, the secretariat has prepared its annual review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore (TD/B/C.1/IRON ORE/8). In order to contribute to an effective discussion under this item, experts from each delegation will be invited to describe national or regional developments pertinent to prospects for the iron ore market.

Item 5: Bibliography of relevant studies on iron ore

For its consideration of this item, the Intergovernmental Group will have before it the 1991 version of the annotated bibiography on iron ore prepared annually by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/C.1/IRON ORE/9)). Part I of the document contains an annotated bibliography of relevant studies prepared by international organizations and other relevant institutions or bodies in 1990/91. Part II lists studies and publications on iron ore communicated by Governments. Part III contains brief summaries of the studies which focus on iron ore mining capacity and investments, as well as on aspects relating to the evolution of demand for and supply of iron ore.

Item 6: Preparations for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore

In view of the mandate given to the Intergovernmental Group by the Trade and Development Board in its decision 382 (XXXVI) and of the wish expressed by the Group of Experts that the bibliography should be maintained as a regular item on the agenda, it is proposed that items 3, 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda in section I above should constitute the substantive items of the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group. Since the mandate of the Group provides for the participation of industry advisers, in its consideration of this item the Group may wish to request industry advisers to provide their suggestions on the future work of the Group. The Group may also wish to make a recommendation to the Trade and Development Board concerning the timing in 1992 of the sixth session.

Item 7: Other business

The Group may wish to consider under this item whether it wishes to be designated as an International Commodity Body (ICB) by the Common Fund for Commodities for the purpose of making use of the facilities available under the Fund's Second Account.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

21 October 1991

10 a.m. Plenary meeting

After the election of officers and adoption of the agenda, the Group may wish to establish an informal working group to proceed with the discussions on agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6 in a more informal setting. It is proposed that the proceedings of the informal working group be summarized by the Chairman at the closing plenary meeting.

The schedule proposed for the three working days of the session is as follows.

- First day: Statistics;
- Second day: Review of current market developments and outlook; and
- Third day: Information about studies and activities related to iron ore carried out by other institutions and in individual countries; other business; and preparations for the next session.

11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Item 3 - Review of iron ore statistics

(i) Iron ore statistics 1981-1990

For the purposes of the working group's review of iron ore statistics, delegations will be expected to revise the statistics by providing their most recent national statistics. The secretariat will endeavour to ensure that a revised version of the document, incorporating revisions and new data, will be available by the end of the session. A special contribution for further improvements of the iron ore statistics will be made by Mr. Jacques Astier, a prominent expert from the French delegation who will make a presentation on the question of: Iron ore statistics: Definitions, notes and comparability.

(ii) Year-to-date statistics and estimates for 1991 and 1992

With a view to assisting the Group in assessing the year-to-date situation and possible trends for the following year, the secretariat will distribute to each delegation at the beginning of the session a mini-questionnaire in order to collect the latest available data and/or estimates of key statistics for the current and following year. The compilation of the data, as well as of any additional statistics available to the UNCTAD secretariat for the current year, will be made available to participants at the end of the session as an informal document called "Latest statistics provided by delegates during the session or available to the UNCTAD secretariat."

(iii) System of national statistical correspondents

The secretariat will also report to the Group on progress in the implementation of the system of national statistical correspondents for the regular transmission of iron ore statistics to the UNCTAD secretariat. In this regard, with a view to completing the system, Governments which have not yet designated statistical correspondents, or which wish to make changes or corrections, may wish to take the opportunity to do so.

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10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Item 4 - Review of the current market situation and outlook for iron ore

(i) Secretariat and guest speaker

Following the presentation of the secretariat document "Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore - 1991" (TD/B/C.1/IRON ORE/8), arrangements have been made for a presentation on "*The changing structure* of the global steel industry: Implications for the iron ore industry" by Mr. Peter F. Marcus, Senior Vice President of Paine Webber Incorporated. It is envisaged that these presentations will be followed by discussions.

(ii) National presentations

Individual delegations are invited to make presentations on supply and demand prospects at national levels. Industry advisers are warmly encouraged to take an active part in the discussions covering the global and national market situations, as well as any other specific factors which may influence future trends and developments in the iron ore market.

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10 a.m. Item 5 - Bibliography of relevant studies on iron ore

The document "Annotated bibliography on iron ore - 1991" (TD/B/C.1/IRON ORE/9) will be introduced by the secretariat. Representatives from international organizations concerned could be invited to provide additional information on their studies.

Item 6 - Preparations for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore

Item 7 - Other business

5 p.m. Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
Summary by the Chairman of the proceedings of the informal working group.

Item 8 - Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore to the Committee on Commodities